



For Immediate Release

September 13, 2012

Tragic Home Fire Takes the Life of 88 Year Old Alukanuk Woman

(Alukanuk, Alaska) A tragic home fire in the Western Alaska village of Alukanuk took the life of an eighty-eight year old woman yesterday. Initial reports say that the fire occurred at approximately 2:15 pm and the woman was trapped in her home when the fire engulfed the exit doorway. The women suffered severe burns when trying to escape the fire. It was reported that she was medevac'd to Bethel where she succumbed to her injuries at approximately 10:30 pm September 12th.

A Deputy Fire Marshal from the State Fire Marshal's Office was dispatched to Alukanuk to investigate the fire fatality. The cause of the fire is under investigation at this time.

2012 has been a bad year for fire fatalities compared to the last two years. Eighteen Alaskans have lost their lives in fires so far this year and all but two of these fatalities were in residential home fires. Fire safe behavior in and around the home is everyone's responsibility. Remember that young children and the elderly are at a greater risk of dying in a home fire.

The Alaska Division of Fire and Life Safety reminds Alaskans that working smoke alarms can give them the extra time needed to escape a devastating home fire and alert fire officials for an earlier response. It is also important to have two ways out of every room.

Alaska State Fire Marshal Kelly Nicolello adds, "Fire safe behavior can keep a fire from starting. Working smoke alarms, planning and practicing your fire escape plan and adding residential fire suppression sprinklers can ensure your family's safety in case of a fire."

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